

DAMASCUS SANA IN ARABIC 1645 GMT 29 MAY 74 M

D/Syria

((EMBARGOED UNTIL 1800 GMT))

((TEXT)) DAMSCUS, 29 MAY--A PRESS STATEMENT WAS ISSUED IN DAMASCUS THIS EVENING ON THE VISIT OF CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO MEMBER AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREY GROMYKO TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REHOBLIC. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT:

IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO MEMBER AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREY GROMYKO PAID A CORDIAL AND OFFICIAL VISIT TO DAMASCUS FROM 27 TWENTYSEVEN TO 29 TWENTYNINE MAY 1974 SEVENTYFOUR. THE VISIT OF THE FRIENDLY GUEST TOOK PLACE IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE THAT IS COMMENSURATE WITH THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

ANDREY GROMYKO WAS RECEIVED BY HAFIZ AL-ASAD, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SOCIALIST ARAB BA'TH PARTY AND PRESIDENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC; PRIME MINISTER MAHMUD AL-AYYUBI; AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER 'ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM. TALKS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES THAT WERE PARTICULARLY CENTERED ON THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO FIND A JUST SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND ON THE QUESTION OF THE SEPARATION OF FORCES ON THE SYRIAN FRONT AS A FIRST STEP AND AN INDIVISIBLE PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION. IT HAS AGAIN BEEN CONFIRMED AS A RESULT OF THESE TALKS THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE IDENTICAL STANDS ON ALL THESE QUESTIONS. THE TWO SIDES ALSO REAFFIRMED THAT A JUST SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM CANNOT BE ACHIEVED EXCEPT ON THE BASIS OF ISRAEL'S COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY AND INSURING THE NATIONAL AND LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE. THE TWO SIDES CONSIDER THAT AS SOON AS AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE SEPARATION OF FORCES ON THE SYRIAN FRONT AND ITS CLAUSES ARE IMPLEMENTED, THE NECESSARY MEASURES MUST BE IMMEDIATELY INITIATED TO ARRIVE AT THE OVERALL AD JUST SOLUTION WHICH WILL INSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS.

THE SYRIAN SIDE AFFIRMED ITS STAND THAT THE SOVIET UNION MUST PARTICIPATE IN ALL THE STAGES AND DOMAINS OF THE SOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE SOVIET SIDE REAFFIRMED THE FIRMNESS OF THE PRINCIPLED COURSE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS FOLLOWING AND WHICH IS AIMED AT HE OVERALL SUPPORT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC IN ITS STRUGGLE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION.

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AFFIRM THE STRONG RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM AND THE SOLID FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND DECLARE THAT THEY WILL NOTT ALLOW ANY QUARTER TO UNDERMINE THESE RELATIONS AND THE FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AS A DESULT OF THE BIG AND CONTINUOUS EFFORTS EXERTED BY BOTH SIDES. 291645
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